

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting the telephone interview on April 29, 2004, and for the Examiner's thoughtful consideration of this case. During the telephone interview, Applicants and Examiner discussed Claim 19 with respect to the *Chari* and *Cepulis* references. Specifically, Applicants and Examiner discussed alternative claim language, which is included among the claim amendments. Applicants have also included claim amendments to improve the readability of the claims. Applicants understand that all of the pending claims, as recited in this Response to Office Action, are distinguishable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case with respect to Independent Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 21, 26, and 27, and all claims depending from those claims.

Information Disclosure Statement Not Considered

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying PTO-1449 form were submitted on January 12, 2004, before the mailing date of the final Office Action on January 13, 2004. The Examiner has not provided an indication that the submitted references have been considered by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have enclosed copies of the previously submitted IDS and PTO-1449 form. Additionally, Applicants have included a copy of the date-stamped postcard indicating the submission of the IDS. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the cited references, if not already considered, and provide the appropriate indication that they have been considered by initialing next to the references on the PTO-1449 form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejects Claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended Claims 26 and 27 to correct the antecedent basis issues identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 26 and 27 are in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 26 and 27.

Conclusions


Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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